

Own goal boost for Wycombe

WYCOMBE Wanderers overcame monsoon conditions of a strong wind and driving rain to return from the Tilbury outpost with a deserved Isthmian League victory on Tuesday night.

Because of the heavy rain, the pitch was covered with puddles and the match was nearly called off. But both teams wanted to get the fixture over with, and persuaded the referee to start the game — albeit 15 minutes late.

The pitch was firm in places, so the contest was not the farce it might have been. But the strong wind did have an effect on the play and it was Wycombe who had it at their back during the first half.

Own goal

Blues dominated the half territorially and should have gone in at half time with a

Tilbury 0, Wycombe 1

healthy lead. Instead they had to settle for a 27th minute own goal to give them a narrow advantage.

Howard Kennedy, returning to the side, drove a free-kick across the goalmouth and Tilbury defender Dave Barnett, under pressure from Stewart Atkins and Steve Hardwick, deflected the ball past his own goalkeeper.

At one stage during the first half Wycombe forced seven corners in 10 minutes but with some skill and considerable good fortune the Tilbury defence managed to hold firm.

The home side were slightly surprised to be still in the game at half-time, and with the wind now behind them they put a lot of pressure on the Wycombe line.

But Hardwick, Keith Mead

and Bobby Davies were in such commanding form that young goalkeeper Chris Way did not have a serious shot to save throughout the 90 minutes. His most active role was to field long range efforts from Tilbury's weak forward line, who never looked like scoring despite their territorial advantage.

Indeed it was Wycombe who still had the better chances but lack of confidence in front of goal meant that their opponents were once again let off lightly.

When the final whistle went the players rushed for the exit to get out of the cold, while the loyal coachload of Wycombe fans made the long journey home in happy mood.

TILBURY: P. Mills; A. Rowell, J. Russell (sub T. Sharpe, 75 mins), M. Linton, D. Barnett, N. Binks, S. Coventry, P. Keeping, N. Smith, K. Gray, L. Cobb.

WYCOMBE: C. Way; R. Davies, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, S. Hardwick, D. Evans, S. Atkins, M. Hollifield, L. Reed, H. Kennedy, T. Scott. Sub G. Toll (not used).

Half-time: 0-1. Scorer: Wycombe — Barnett o.g. (27 mins).

Evans up for transfer

AS Wycombe prepare for their last league game at home to Sutton United tomorrow (Saturday) there comes news that their long-serving forward Dylan Evans has been put on the transfer list.

Evans joined nearly six years ago having been leading scorer with Cheltenham Town in the Southern League. But he has never scored the goals first expected of him and has often been left on the sidelines.

However, there is no doubt about his footballing ability — he can play brilliantly at times — and will be chiefly remembered for his great goal which helped knock Newport out of the F.A. Cup in his first season.

Because of a shortage of players, Evans has been switched into the midfield in recent weeks and looked an accomplished player.

He is almost certain to play in that position tomorrow against improved Sutton, who recently

became the first British side to win the Anglo Italian Cup.

Blues must win by more than one goal if they are to pip local rivals Slough for fifth place in the table. Slough have never finished above Wycombe in a league and this should give Blues an extra incentive to round off the season with a good win.

Incidentally if Wycombe triumph 3-2 they will have an identical record — both points and goals — and so finish equal fifth with Slough.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE (Up to and including May 1)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barking	41	28	8	5	91	49	92
Dulwich	41	21	13	7	69	37	76
Dagenham	40	23	6	11	78	60	75
Enfield	40	21	10	9	66	36	73
Slough	42	20	12	10	61	44	72
Wycombe	41	20	9	12	88	42	69
Croydon	42	19	9	14	61	51	66
Woking	40	17	14	9	75	54	65
Hendon	42	16	14	12	55	48	62
Tooting	40	15	13	12	51	50	58
Leatherhead	41	16	9	16	54	43	57
Sutton	41	16	9	16	60	50	57
Tilbury	42	13	11	18	60	76	50
Boreham	41	13	10	18	48	64	49
Walthamstow	41	14	6	21	57	68	48
Hitchin	42	12	11	19	59	71	47
Hayes	42	9	18	15	45	58	45
Carshalton	40	10	15	15	47	64	45
Oxford	42	12	7	23	50	80	43
Staines	41	6	18	19	40	62	34
Leytonstone	42	8	7	27	36	75	31
Kingstonian	42	3	15	24	35	72	24